

2017 AMHERST COMMUNITY GARDENS – GUIDELINES AND RULES



DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES:

April 18:	Registration packet due
April 18:	Last day that returning gardeners' plots will be held
April 21:	New Gardeners – garden assignments for new gardeners will be made after April 21
May 22:	Weather and soil conditions permitting – garden assignments completed and plots marked
October 31:	Plots must be cleared of plants, gardening equipment and other material

1. Minors will be required to have an adult co-signer.
2. Gardeners will keep a clean and well maintained garden area. Gardeners must remove trash/rubbish from their garden premises. **TRASH OUT!**
3. **NOT PERMITTED:** Storage of fences, tools, hoses, wheelbarrows, chairs, barrels, grills, wood, baskets, cold frames, metal or any item made of plastic will not be permitted. Any of these or other unnatural items must be removed from the garden site by October 31. All material left at the garden site after October 31th is subject to removal and disposal by the Conservation Department at the gardener's expense. Failure to comply will result in the gardener losing the privilege in renting garden sites.
4. **NEW*** Please remove any chairs, umbrellas, tents, tarps, screen houses, etc. from the garden when you are done gardening for the day. These items cannot be left in place and must be cleared from the garden every day.
5. **No Pets.** Amherst law requires dogs to be restrained at all times. Dogs must not be permitted to damage or enter the garden plots of others.
6. Plots:
 - A plot may not be worked until completed registration forms and fees have been received by the Amherst Conservation Department. **All garden fees are non-refundable.**
 - Only one person may register for a plot. The status and residence of that person determines the applicable fee structure. That person is responsible for insuring that the garden rules as they apply to her/his plot(s) are observed. However, more than one person may garden in a plot.
 - **If you decide to give up your plot(s) – please notify the Conservation Department ASAP, so that your plot(s) can be reassigned to someone on the waiting list.**
 - **Plot(s) must be cleaned for winter by October 31; otherwise the plot(s) cannot be renewed for the next gardening season.** (The gardener may apply to the Conservation Department for reinstatement.) Cleaning includes cutting down and disposing of dead plants to discourage soil-borne disease and overwintering pests. Newspaper, temporary fencing, plastic jugs, plastic mulch, furniture, toys must be removed.
 - You may plant what you wish within your plot(s), subject to the following restrictions: Plantings, structures and trees that shade other garden plots are not allowed.

Plantings should not encroach on your neighbors' plots. **Avoid planting crops that are potentially invasive such as raspberry and mint. PLANTING OF NON-NATIVE INVASIVES IS NOT ALLOWED!**

- Plantings within a plot are the property of the registered gardener. If a gardener does not plan to return for the following season, remaining plants must be removed by the autumn clean-up date. If a gardener fails to cultivate his/her plot by June 1, the garden plot(s) will be reassigned to someone on the waiting list.
 - Garden plots at Mill Lane are approximately 20' x 20'; garden plots at Amethyst Brook are approximately 30' x 60'. Amethyst Brook gardens are for Amherst residents only.
 - Gardeners are limited to a maximum of four garden plots at Mill Lane and two plots at Amethyst Brook.
 - **Returning gardeners' plots will be held until April 18, 2016. If registration forms and payment are not received by that day, they will be made available to other gardeners.**
 - Registration may be transferred from one gardener to another who is gardening in the same plot only by written request to the Conservation Department.
7. **CONSERVE WATER!** Gardeners must be present during watering; sprinklers and soaker hoses are not allowed. Soaker hoses and unattended sprinklers do not allow for equitable water access and usage. Garden water may not be used for washing of motor vehicles or for any non-gardening related activities.
 8. **The use of chemical herbicides and pesticides are NOT allowed.**
 9. Garden waste may be handled as follows:
 - Gardeners are encouraged to maintain compost piles within their plot(s). Please compost only plant and vegetable material, and cover fresh compost with soil to discourage animals. Do not bring kitchen waste to your compost pile.
 10. The Town of Amherst will not be responsible for protecting or policing garden plots against vandalism, theft of garden implements or stealing of plants, fruits or vegetables.
 11. Selling farm related or other products at any of the Community Garden sites or on adjacent Town property is prohibited.
 12. Violators of the rules are subject to the loss of plots and fees.



Thank you!

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SAVE FOR REFERENCE